

wider world, with some making their way to the United States and to Los Angeles.

It is their grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom I represent as a Member of the U.S. Congress. There is a vibrant community, many tens of thousands strong, with schools, churches, and businesses providing a daily link to their ancestral homeland. It is on their behalf that I urge you to begin anew a national conversation in Turkey about the events of 1915–1923.

As a young man or woman in Turkey, you might ask: What has this to do with me? Am I to blame for a crime committed long before I was born?

I would say this: yours is the moral responsibility to acknowledge the truth and to seek a reconciliation with the Armenian people that your parents and their parents could or would not. It is an obligation you have inherited and is one from which you must not shrink; for though we cannot choose our own history, we decide what to do about it, and you will be the ones to shape Turkey's future.

At the end of World War II, Germany was a shattered nation—defeated in battle and exposed as history's greatest war criminal—but in the decades since the end of the war, Germany has engaged in a prolonged effort to reconcile with the Jewish people, who were nearly exterminated by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The German Government has prosecuted war criminals, returned expropriated property, allied itself with Israel, and made countless apologies to the victims and to the world. Most importantly, Germany has worked to expunge the cancer of the dehumanizing bigotry and hatred that gave rise to the Holocaust.

This path of reflection, reconciliation, and repentance must be Turkey's path as well. It will not be easy. The questions will be painful and the answers difficult, sometimes unknowable.

One question stands out: How could a nation that ruled peaceably over a diverse, multicultural empire for centuries have turned on one of its own peoples with such ruthlessness that an entirely new word had to be invented to describe what took place? "Genocide."

As in Judaism and Christianity, the concept of repentance—or *tawba*—is central to Islam. Next year will mark a century since the beginning of the genocide, and Armenians around the world will mourn their dead, contemplate the enormity of their loss, and ask: Why?

Answer them, please, with words of repentance.

Sincerely, ADAM SCHIFF, Member of Congress.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RYAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of the legislation H. Con. Res. 96, the budget proposed by the chairman of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Unfortunately, this year's Ryan budget is more of the same recklessness and extreme partisanship that we have seen year after year from the House Republican leadership.

According to the Democrats on the House Budget Committee, under RYAN'S plan, middle class families in my district in central New York will pay an average of \$2,000 more each year.

Once again, the Ryan budget ends the Medicare guarantee as we know it, and it would turn Medicare, instead, into a privatized voucher program and would shift health care costs to seniors.

It threatens to cut off critical investments in job creation and infrastructure, and it slashes education at a time when local school districts in central New York are already struggling to find the resources necessary to provide our children with the high-quality education that they deserve.

This is not a balanced approach, and it is not a responsible solution. People in central New York and across the country need better. Congress must get serious about balancing the budget and about reducing the national debt and deficit, but not on the backs of our seniors and not on the backs of the middle class and certainly not on the backs of future generations of Americans.

At a time when many central New Yorkers are still struggling as the economy recovers, we simply cannot accept the irresponsible policies of the Ryan budget.

I call on my colleagues to reject the Ryan budget and to work together to create a bipartisan budget that gets our fiscal house in order and promotes economic growth, creates jobs, protects our seniors, and strengthens the middle class.

RECENT EVIDENCE OF INFLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of a recent scientific discovery, a result which, if confirmed and understood in its full theoretical context, has the potential to change the way we think about the beginnings of the universe.

Before coming to Congress, I was a high-energy particle physicist and a particle accelerator designer at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for over 20 years. While I sometimes miss being back in the lab, I am very pleased when I have the opportunity to advocate in Congress for scientific research and development.

Twice in my life, I have had the privilege of participating in a fundamental breakthrough in science. The first was during my Ph.D. thesis work

when we observed a subatomic process, known as proton decay—which was confidently predicted by many, if not most, of the theoretical physicists at the time—was, in fact, not happening.

The second time was at Fermilab, when I was part of the team that discovered the top quark, which is the heaviest known form of matter and, quite possibly, the heaviest subatomic particle that will ever be discovered—or not.

So like scientists around the world, my pulse quickened with the announcement that the first independent confirming evidence for cosmic inflation in the early universe had been discovered.

Humans have wondered about the origin of the universe for thousands of years. Now, thanks to a team of clever and hard-working scientists and of Federal investments in basic science, we appear to be an important step closer to understanding the birth of the universe.

Immediately following the big bang, which is the moment at which the universe burst into existence, scientists have hypothesized that the universe underwent a period known as inflation. During inflation, which lasted for only a tiny fraction of a second, the universe expanded at an exponential rate.

Now, the BICEP2 team, which is a collaboration of 12 institutes, including universities, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy and NASA laboratories, has found direct evidence that appears to verify the theory of inflation.

They were able to study the very first moments of the universe at less than a trillionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second after the big bang, and they were able to obtain direct observational evidence of inflation, which, until now, has been mainly based on theoretical work.

To do this, the team constructed a telescope at the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctic Program's research station at the South Pole to observe the cosmic microwave background radiation, a faint glow left over from the big bang.

They observed a pattern in the cosmic background radiation that was consistent with being left over from inflation, giving us a glimpse of the universe over 13.7 billion years ago. They were able to detect this, in large part, because of recent advances in highly sensitive detector technology.

This project was primarily funded by the National Science Foundation, and it received generous support from NASA and from the Department of Energy, as well as from private industry, and it is an example of the importance of Federal funding for basic science research.

It is also an example of the interplay between technology and basic science and of how new technology will lead to even greater advances in basic science and vice versa.

Additionally, study after study has shown that there are few investments

our government can make that provide as high a return on investment as scientific research and development.

Despite this, Federal investments in research and development are at an historic low, comprising merely 3.8 percent of the Federal budget—or 0.8 percent of the GDP.

In fact, over the last 3 years, Federal research and development expenditures have decreased by 16.3 percent, which is the steepest decline over a 3-year period since the end of the space race.

These results are an important reminder of the value of Federal investment in research and development. Without the proper investment in scientific research, we must expect fewer of these groundbreaking scientific discoveries, at least in the United States.

The greatest long-term threat that our country faces on both the military and economic fronts is the threat of losing our role as world leaders in innovation and in science and technology.

Nothing is more crucial to preserving that role than having adequate funding for fundamental and applied scientific research. The recent advances in cosmology are just one of many examples of the breadth of intellectual capital and state-of-the-art technology that the U.S. currently possesses.

As Congress determines how to allocate funding for these agencies in the coming year, with many proposing budgets that will cripple future investments in education and research, I urge my colleagues to capitalize on these discoveries and ensure that we are investing enough in research, science, and education.

Because of Federal investments in science, we have just looked significantly farther into the early universe than anyone has done before. This not only tells us about the birth of the universe, but it also gives us insight into our fundamental understanding of the laws of physics.

This discovery by the BICEP2 team has been globally recognized as one of the most important fundamental breakthroughs in science in our lifetimes, a landmark of American academic achievement that will live on in the science textbooks forever.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL UNDERMINES AMERICA'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I introduced legislation to provide an extension of emergency unemployment benefits that would extend the important safety net of unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance to over 2 million Americans who lost their benefits on December 28 and thereafter as a result of the failure of this body to act to protect those benefits.

Many of us, particularly on the Democratic side—and I know some on

the other side as well because they have expressed it—would have preferred that we had dealt with this question as we were dealing with the budget issues and the budget question that we faced at the end of last year, but we did not, so we are left now with the fact that we have some unfinished business.

On Monday evening, in a bipartisan fashion, the U.S. Senate enacted similar legislation. In fact, the bill that I introduced on Monday night was the precise language enacted on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Senate.

Two million Americans are living right now with the fear of losing their homes, losing their cars, having their families split up because they don't have that basic need being met of a roof over a head and food on the table between their last jobs and their next jobs.

For typical workers in America, when they lose their jobs, it takes an average of 37 weeks. I know, in my home State, it is probably longer before they find their next opportunities. In Michigan, once one loses one's job, one has got 20 weeks of unemployment insurance. What happens to one after that is what we are dealing with today.

The fact that people go from one week to the next not knowing if they are going to be able to keep their families together and keep roofs over their heads is something that this Congress can do something about if it chooses to.

I know there are Members of the Republican Conference who are anxious to see this enacted because several put together a letter to the Speaker, asking that this issue be brought up immediately, and that is what I hope my colleagues will do—bring extended unemployment compensation, unemployment insurance to the floor, so that we can protect those workers who are trying to get from their last jobs to their next jobs without starting a cycle of poverty that could last generations.

There are some who say we don't need this because, number one, workers who are on unemployment don't want to work. I suppose there may be an exception or a myth that we could conjure up about an individual who is receiving unemployment compensation who doesn't want to work, but for those of you who believe that, come to my district or, better yet, go to your home district.

Talk to people in the unemployment lines and ask them if they would trade their situations today for meaningful work. I assure you that the vast majority, if not all of the people in that situation, would trade, in a minute, their situations for a real job with a decent wage.

There are some also who say that we shouldn't do this because it is not an emergency, that these are supposed to be emergency benefits. As far as I can see, it is not only an emergency here in Washington, but if you are about to lose your house or if you are about to

lose your car or if you don't have enough food on the table to feed your kids, for you, it is an emergency.

We represent those folks, and we ought to be thinking about them, and we ought to take this up.

So why is it that we need to do this in the first place? I think the Republicans and Democrats could agree that the economy is not growing at a rate to put all Americans back to work. We will acknowledge that. We will stipulate that, while there has been growth and while there has been private sector job creation, it is not enough.

We will probably disagree on the reasons behind that, but we can agree that the current economy is not enough to put these folks back to work. We should help them, but we should also do the things that it will take to get America back to work again.

Unfortunately, what we will deal with in the next couple of days is a budget that undermines economic growth, that undermines the kind of investments in the skills of our workforce by cutting job training, by cutting Pell grants, by cutting early childhood education—programs like Head Start—that actually change the trajectory for those individuals, that make them more capable and more able to get into the workforce in this competitive economy that we are in.

□ 1030

Rather than investing in our people, what this proposed Ryan budget would do is to cut those essential programs and not contribute to economic growth.

It also would cut important investments in infrastructure. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need to rebuild our infrastructure—our roads, our bridges, our rail systems, and our ports.

This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress can come together around this question and realize that if, in the short term, we are going to deal with the crisis that families are facing, we will pass an unemployment extension, and, in the long term, we take the kind of steps that we need to rebuild our economy.

The budget proposed by Mr. RYAN that will be coming to the floor will take us in the wrong direction.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.